

Hampton Corn Crib  
537 1/2 St. Francis Road  
East of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House)  
North of Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-N

HABS  
MD.  
3-TOW. V,  
1W-

PHOTOGRAPH  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-N

HAMPTON CORN CRIB

Location: 537½ St. Francis Road, east of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House), north of Hampton National Historic Site, Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: John Ridgely, Jr. estate

Present Use: Storage

Statement of Significance This structure is a utilitarian building used for the storage of corn.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Dairy is built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Ridgely Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion and an adjoining forty-two acres to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. After the completion of the sale, John Ridgely, Jr. and his wife moved to the Overseer's House (HABS No. MD-226-J) across Hampton Lane. John Ridgely, Jr. died in 1959 and his wife, Jane Rodney Ridgely, like all the past Ridgely wives, maintains dower rights to the property. John Ridgely III, is executor.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1850
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: None known
  5. Alterations and additions: None known
  6. Important old views: The 1843 plat of the Hampton estate indicates that there were two "Corn Houses" north of the Mule Barn (HABS No. MD-226-0). No structures were shown on the site of the existing corn crib.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:  
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.
  2. Secondary and published sources: None known

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This unusually large, one-story gabled roof Corn Crib has a central, east doorway with a smaller door over it and small square grain fill holes on the other elevations.
2. Condition of the fabric: The structure is in a deteriorating condition.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure measures 22'-2" x 42'-2".
2. Foundations: Ashlar stone masonry foundations extend the long dimension of the building and are on spread stone footings.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame structure is sheathed with horizontally applied 1" x 4 3/4" beveled wood slats spaced 5" on center. The siding has weathered to a natural color.
  4. Structural system: Four equally spaced 8" x 10" wood posts at the long elevations are mortised into 8" x 10" sills. The posts are infilled with 4" x 10" studs, 2'-0" on center. 8" x 10" beams supported on diagonal braces span between the posts which carry the wall plates and the roof structure.
  5. Porches: A wood platform and three steps are located at the east doorway. A board nailed to the walling and paralleling the run of the steps forms a hand rail.
  6. Chimneys: None
  7. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors: The east doorway is hung with a board and batten door and has a smaller board and batten door over it, above a plain transom bar.
    - b. Windows and shutters: Though there are no windows there are small grain fill holes. One open fill hole is located at the south elevation. Three fill holes are equally spaced on the west elevation, with higher fill holes over the central and north openings.
  8. Roof:
    - a. Shape and covering: The gable roof is covered with wood shingles.
    - b. Cornice and eaves: The widely overhanging eaves have a plain fascia board and the east verge fascia is cut in a jig-saw cut pattern, which is largely deteriorated.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plan: The east bay of the building forms a vestibule which is partially subdivided and opens into a long corridor with flanking storage areas.
  2. Stairways: None
  3. Flooring: The floor is random width boards, 9" to 14" wide.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Typically, the outside walls are sheathed with spaced 1" x 3" wood slats with a 1" x 12" beveled wood water table. The 5" x 8" studding of the interior partitions is sheathed with 1" x 9" to 14" boards spaced 2" apart. In the vestibule a 4'-1" high **wainscot** is constructed from 5" to 15" wide boards. The ceiling is exposed roof structure.
  5. Doorways and doors: Board and batten doors exist between the vestibule and the central corridor, and the corridor and the storage areas.
  6. Special decorative features: Grain access holes are located in the corridor partitions.
  7. Hardware: The doors have strap iron hinges hung on pintles.
  8. Mechanical equipment: None
- D. Site and Surroundings: The Corn Crib is located to the south of the Mule Barn and west of the private lane which extends northerly through the property.

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.